

Dear FCC, Comments on the notice of rule making for docket number 04-37, BPL.

I have been a Ham radio operator since 1965. My call is N4TL. My comments to the notice of propose rule making are as follows.

Paragraph 35 states that many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines. I know of no amateur radio operators that do this. When I want to talk to someone to the west I point my antenna in that direction. If I want to talk to some one to the east I point my antenna in that direction. There has been power line noise to the north east of my location, about 1/4 mile away. It can be located with a portable radio. I have called the power company to come and fix the problem. I have been fortunate in that they have reduced the noise. When I want to talk to someone to the north east that is the direction i point my antenna even when the noise is present. So when paragraph 35 states Amateurs orient their antennas to minimize power line noise, it is incorrect.

Paragraph 42 states that there be a shut-down feature that would deactivate units if found to cause harmful interference. This is good that this feature be included in BPL units, but I wonder how will customers of BPL react to having their service shut off. The power companies should be required inform their customers of this fact before installation. A signed form should be required. That way customers can't complain if their units are found to be causing interference and are shut off.

I am concerned with the measurement guidelines in appendix C. The appendix details antennas and distances for measurements. I know from experience that my high gain antennas pick up power line noise far more then the distances given in the appendix. My antenna is far higher and has much more gain then a loop antenna. So the measurement techniques and antennas described in appendix C, may be adequate to determine if the Access BPL system is compliance to the FCC rules. I don't think it will be adequate to determine the amount of energy being radiated to distant stations.

The amateur bands are a small segment of the proposed BPL frequencies. I think the proposed rules should require the Access BPL systems not use Amateur frequencies. If this is not adopted from the beginning, it will be hard to get power

companies to not
use amateur frequencies after the initial deployment. They will have
already invested
in a certain implementation. If their original system is not able to avoid
the Amateur
frequencies, they will not want to change to a different one that has this
capability
due to the cost involved.

Tom Lewis, N4TL, Raleigh, NC